

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to include the reference numeral 82 illustrated in the drawings. Accordingly, the objection in this regard should be withdrawn.

The specification has been amended to correct the paragraph that bridges pages 3 and 4 to remove the objection under 37 CFR 1.75(a). Accordingly, the objection in this regard should be withdrawn.

The specification has been objected to and claims 2-19 have subsequently been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. The cancellation of claims 2-19 renders the rejection thereof moot.

The Applicant respectfully traverses the holding that the "best mode" is not disclosed, for the following reason(s).

It would be readily apparent (obvious) to one of ordinary skill in the art, and even a user of the inventive apparatus less skilled in the art, that having a cover over the paper transport path in the unit 20, wherein the cover can be opened as disclosed, any paper found jammed in that area can be removed by the user with no fuss.

Thus the best mode, *i.e.*, having a cover over the paper transport path in the unit 20, wherein the cover can be opened, is fully disclosed.

Additionally, spring 82 clearly behaves by pulling the open cover towards the base plate so that the pinch rollers engage feed rollers as one function. One of ordinary skill in the art can readily ascertain this function from the drawings.

It is well established in patent law that the drawings may provide basis for the "written description" requirement of 35 USC §112, first paragraph. *Vas-Cath Inc. v. Mahurkar*, 19 USPQ2d 1111 (CAFC 1991) states: "drawings alone may provide a "written description" of an invention as required by §112"; and *Ex parte Holt*, 19 USPQ2d 1211 (BdPatApp & Inter 1991) states:

"[the] invention claimed need not be described *ipsis verbis* in specification in order to satisfy disclosure requirement of 35 USC 112,...since drawings in specification clearly illustrate...[the claimed invention]."

Note that the function of spring 82 has not been claimed. The Appeal Brief is clearly in error with regard to function of spring 82.

Accordingly, the holding that the "best mode" is not disclosed should be withdrawn.

Claims 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph based upon a number of deficiencies kindly noted by the Examiner. The cancellation of these claims renders this rejection moot.

A number of claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as rendered obvious and unpatentable, over a plurality of applied references applied in various combinations, however, each of the rejections is deemed moot in view of the cancellation of claims 2-19.

New claims 20-36 are deemed to be allowable over the art of record because the art fails

to teach, separately, or in combination, at least the combined features of:

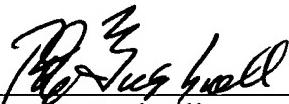
- *a feeding unit assembly comprising:
a base unit having a first plurality of feed rollers for feeding said sheets of recording paper along said first paper transport path;
a first cover plate rotatably positioned over said first paper transport path, a first end of said first cover plate being rotatable about a hinge shaft;
an elastic member attached between said first cover plate and said base unit; and
a grasping portion formed on a second end of said first cover plate, distal to said first end, said grasping portion enabling said first cover plate to be opened, thereby enabling any jammed sheets of paper in said first paper transport path to be removed* (claim 20);
- *a plurality of openings through said first cover plate;
a plurality of pinch rollers, each of said pinch roller being mounted in respective ones of said openings, each of said pinch rollers being positioned over corresponding ones of said feed rollers when said first cover plate is in a closed position* (claim 21);
- *said base unit having a second plurality of feed rollers for feeding said sheets of recording paper along said first paper transport path to an outlet of said feeding unit assembly; and
a second cover plate positioned over said second plurality of feed rollers* (claim 22);
- *a paper feeding cassette mounted below said feeding unit assembly; and
first and second paper guiding chutes;
said paper feeding cassette feeding sheets of paper towards a predetermined location via a second paper transport path formed between said first and second paper guiding chutes;
said feeding unit assembly feeding sheets of paper towards said predetermined location via said second paper guiding chute; and
said duplex module feeding sheets of paper towards said predetermined location via a third paper transport path defined by said first paper guiding chute and said second paper guiding chute* (claim 25);
- *roller shafts, said feed rollers being mounted on said roller shafts;
a motor driven transmission gear mounted on one of said roller shafts;
belt driven pulleys fixed to one end of each of said roller shafts for rotating said roller shafts and said feed rollers in a predetermined direction in response to rotational power applied to said motor driven transmission gear; and
drive belts interconnecting said belt driven pulleys for transferring said rotational power from said one of said roller shafts to said remaining roller shafts* (claim 27);

- *a feeding unit assembly comprising:
a base unit having a first plurality of feed rollers for feeding said sheets of recording paper along said first paper transport path;
a first cover plate rotatably positioned over said first paper transport path, a first end of said first cover plate being rotatable about a hinge shaft, said first cover plate comprising:
a plurality of openings through said first cover plate; and
a plurality of pinch rollers, each of said pinch roller being mounted in respective ones of said openings, each of said pinch rollers being positioned over corresponding ones of said feed rollers when said first cover plate is in a closed position (claim 28).*

The examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the application, withdraw the objections and/or rejections and pass the application to issue in view of the above amendments and/or remarks.

No fee is incurred by this Amendment.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert E. Bushnell
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No.: 27,774

1522 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005
(202) 638-5740

Folio: P56132
Date: 9/8/03
I.D.: REB/MDP